

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for removing raw edible crustacean meat from the intact shell of hard-shelled crustacean in which said meat is very strongly adhered to said shell, said method comprising:

a) initiating the detachment of said raw edible crustacean meat from said intact shell by the step of:

~~(i) immersing said intact shell in a solution of protease enzymes;~~

or

~~(ii)~~(i) subjecting said intact shell to at least one freeze-thaw cycle, wherein said thawing is accomplished at to raise the temperature of the raw edible crustacean meat to a temperature in the range of 4°C to 12°C;

or

~~(iii)~~(ii) subjecting said intact shell to at least one freeze-thaw cycle, wherein said thawing is accomplished at a temperature range of 1°C to 10°C in cold water, or in a cold dilute solution of brine; or

~~(iv)~~(iii) subjecting said intact shell to the action of a superchilled ice/salt mixture at a maximum low temperature of the eutectic temperature;

b) separating said intact shell from said detached raw edible crustacean meat and recovering said raw edible crustacean meat by the step of either:

(i) subjecting the so-treated intact shell to vacuum aspiration to remove and recover said raw edible meat; or

(ii) manually separating intact shell from intact raw edible crustacean meat, recovering said raw intact crustacean meat and discarding said shell.

2-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said crustacean is *Homaridae* lobster, or Spiny lobster or crab, or *Lithodes maja*, or *Neolithodes grimaldii*, or *Cancer pagurus* or *Cancer borealis*.

6. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 for removing meat from Spiny lobster which comprises:

- a) initiating the detachment of an intact shell of said Spiny lobster from intact raw edible Spiny lobster meat by the step of subjecting said Spiny lobster to at least one freeze-thaw cycle, wherein said thawing is accomplished in cold water, or in a cold dilute solution of brine; and
- b) manually separating intact shell of said Spiny lobster from whole, intact Spiny lobster meat within said shell, recovering said whole, intact Spiny lobster meat, and discarding said shell.

7. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 1 for removing meat from crab, comprising:

a) initiating the detachment of an intact shell of said crab from intact raw edible meat by the step of subjecting said crab to at least one freeze-thaw cycle wherein said thawing is accomplished with cold water, or with a cold dilute solution of brine; and

b) manually separating intact shell of said crab from whole, intact crab meat within said shell, and recovering said whole, intact meat, while discarding said shell.

8. (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in any of claims 1, 5, 6 or 7, including the step of vacuum aspiration to remove and recover the so-treated detached crustacean meat fraction under  $5180 \text{ kg/m}^2$  to  $8633 \text{ kg/m}^2$ .

9. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing a stuffed, intact, whole crustacean which comprises:

vacuum eviscerating the anterior and posterior sections of said crustacean;

back flushing said anterior and posterior sections of said crustacean for the removal of the visceral and intestinal contents of said lobster; and

filling said anterior visceral cavity of said crustacean with a stuffing comprising a raw blend comprising female crustacean roe and crustacean meat which has been recovered from a crustacean, or crustaceans.

10. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said crustacean is *Homaridae* lobster, or Spiny lobster or crab, or *Lithodes maja*, or *Neolithodes grimaldii*, or *Cancer pagurus* or *Cancer borealis*.

11. (Withdrawn) A stuffed, intact, whole, crustacean in which the visceral and intestinal contents of said crustacean have been removed, said crustacean then being filled with a stuffing comprising a raw blend comprising female crustacean roe and crustacean meat which has been recovered from a crustacean.

12. (Withdrawn) Stuffed whole crustacean as claimed in claim 11, wherein said crustacean is *Homaridae* lobster, or Spiny lobster or crab, or *Lithodes maja*, or *Neolithodes grimaldii*, or *Cancer pagurus* or *Cancer borealis*.

13. (Withdrawn) A stuffing for a stuffer, intact, whole crustacean or crab in which the visceral and intestinal contents of said crustacean have been removed, said stuffing comprising a raw blend comprising female crustacean roe and meat which has been removed from a crustacean.

14. (Withdrawn) The stuffing as claimed in claim 13, wherein the crustacean is *Homaridae* lobster, or Spiny lobster or crab, or *Lithodes maja*, or *Neolithodes grimaldii*, or *Cancer pagurus* or *Cancer borealis*.